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A spanking needed to get cooperation?

By DAVID BAUM

Along with new hopes for a prosperous new year for Carbondale and all its residents and businesses, we hope city council members and Mayor Fred J. Mancuso will be able to put aside their differences and work together for the benefit of the city.

Unfortunately, that hasn't happened yet.

It seems both sides have decided to continue waging a dispute between each other to see what side can outdo the other in political rhetoric and potshots.

This is nothing new to city residents. They've had to put up with such nonsense for some time. We know it has made the news media happy by supplying stories on who said the latest and nastiest thing about whom.

But has all the squabbling really helped solve any problems or brought any progress to the Pioneer City?

We don't think so.

The constant back and forth bickering by these two sides, who are supposed to represent the best interests of city residents, brings to mind a story about two teenagers, a brother and sister, who couldn't get along.

It seems one day the teenager's parents went on vacation. Before leaving they were each given specific duties to do to keep the house clean and tidy. The first few days went by with no problems. The fourth day the girl didn't like how the boy did his portion of the duties and told him off.

This incensed the boy, who started picking at every thing the girl did. The next three days were filled with teasing, arguing and cursing and the two quickly forgot about taking care of the house.

When their parents came home from vacation, they were surprised to find the house a total disaster. Both were marched straight to their rooms, where they received a good hard spanking from their disappointed father. The father made the boy and girl work together to clean the house from attic to cellar. Together they soon had the house in sparkling clean shape.

The moral of the story: More work can be done by two sides working together instead of apart, especially after both sides have been severely punished.

To apply this to city officials, if a serious effort was made by residents to petition those who will not work together for the benefit of the city to be placed on the ballot and possibly voted out of office, then maybe both sides would wise up and get to the business at hand -- which is to restore, rejuvenate and repair Carbondale and put it back in its proud place of history as a growing and innovative city of progress.

Many cities and towns have challenged their local governments and won, replacing officials who could not, or would not, work for the betterment of their city together. Carbondale should keep that in mind.